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49. The apparatus according to claim 41 wherein said words which are contained in said pull-down menu may be input by a user.

50. The apparatus according to claim 43 wherein said input/output device further includes digital/analog data converting means.

51. The apparatus according to claim 50 wherein said input/output device further includes video format converting means."

REMARKS

This Amendment is intended to make of record the interview which transpired on September 19, 2002 as well as to respond to the Office Action dated May 8, 2002. The interview occurred telephonically and was attended by Examiner's Cameron Sadaat and Valencia Martin-Wallace as well as the undersigned. In this regard, the Examiner's Interview Summary as well as the arguments below accurately represent the subject matter which was discussed.

As discussed in the interview and in response to the subject Office Action, claims 1-38 have been cancelled and replaced with new claims 39-51. These new claims recite limitations which are believed to be both novel and non-obvious, and reconsideration of the rejections (of the subject matter) thereof is respectfully requested.

Referring first to claims 39 and 43, these claims recite a weapon mounted cursor control device (as part of a weapon system) which is mounted co-parallel to the axis of the weapon bore and proximal the rear center of the weapon grip. Although cursor control devices are known in conjunction with similar weapon systems (e.g. the '481 patent), no cited prior art reference teaches or suggests the employment of a cursor control mechanism in the recited location. Located as such, the cursor control mechanism can be actuated by the thumb of either a right or left-handed user without requiring mount position adjustments when carried by one type of user or the other (left or right-handed). In view of the foregoing, the allowance of claims 39 and 43, as well as their dependent claims, is respectfully requested.

Claim 48 recites a portable, wearable weapon apparatus having a software interface which enables a click-and-carry method of cursor control. Although the Examiner has written, in paragraph 36 of the Office Action, that such a method (originally recited in claims 20-22) is "well known" in the art, it is believed that the subject "click-and-carry" method is both novel and non-obvious, particularly when employed in combination with a weapon mounted cursor control device. In this regard, claim 48 has been written to more clearly distinguish the subject limitations from that which is known. In particular, the subject cursor control method (enabled by the recited software interface) allows a weapon user to select and move a graphical icon with a single finger rather than with two fingers as is known in the art, i.e. the prior art method comprising using: 1) one finger to select and maintain hold of an icon, while 2) simultaneously moving the cursor/icon with a second finger while continuously maintaining pressure with the first finger.

More particularly, employing the click-and-carry method of the subject invention, a graphical icon may be selected by depressing an actuating mechanism with a first finger. Thereafter, the actuating mechanism may be released while still maintaining control or "carrying" the selected graphical icon. With the actuating mechanism still released, the first finger can be employed to maneuver the control mechanism in order to reposition the graphical icon at a desired location. Once in position, the first finger can (again) be used to depress the actuating mechanism a second time, thereby releasing the icon at the instant location. Importantly, this claimed method of cursor control allows a weapon user to control functions of the computer without requiring that the user perform difficult multiple finger maneuvers while simultaneously attempting to maintain aim and control of the weapon. Such a method provides a considerable margin of safety to a user (e.g. in combat) of the claimed weapon system and is nowhere taught or even hinted at in the art. In view of the above, claim 48 and all claims dependent thereon are believed to recite patentable subject matter and their passage to issuance is respectfully requested.

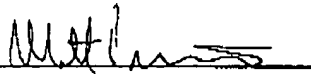
Lastly, with regards to the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112 of the claim language "voiceless, wireless communication means", it is respectfully pointed out that such language refers to a non-voice communication device via which messages are transmitted wirelessly e.g. a text message (created via drop down menus, a keyboard,

etc.) transmitted wirelessly from one computer to another. The rejection of this claim language is thus respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

For the foregoing reasons, each claim 39, 43, and 48 is believed to recite both novel and non-obvious subject matter, and the issuance of these claims, as well as their dependent claims, is thus requested. Although there are not believed to be any issues remaining in this case, if any such issues are deemed to exist, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned telephonically so that such issues may be resolved most expeditiously.

Respectfully Submitted,

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I hereby certify that this amendment is being
facsimile transmitted to the U.S.P.T.O. on October 8, 2002.


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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADEIn the title

“Infantry Wearable [Computer] Information and Weapon System”

In the Abstract

“Wearable systems for providing situational awareness in battle or combat type conditions. More specifically, this invention provides modular, wearable, weapon-integrated information [computer] systems for gathering and transmitting data, wherein the systems include [non-integrated] components [and are] tailorable for specific [missions and/or conditions] conditions or missions. Further, [this invention provides] provided are [unique] hardware and software [means] for controlling such wearable systems and for communicating with remote [other] system wearers.”